

Message Text

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ACTION INR-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 /033 W
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R 051917Z MAY 78
FM USMISSION USNATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1339
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 04542

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINR, HK, NATO, TH, UK
SUBJECT: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON BRITISH AMBASSADOR TO
VIETNAM

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1. AMUSING, WITTY, ARTICULATE, HIGHLY INTELLIGENT AND
ENERGETIC, JOHN MARGETSON WAS AMONG THE MOST EFFECTIVE
DIPLOMATS AT NATO DURING HIS SERVICE HERE FROM 1974 TO
1978. AS HEAD OF CHANCERY FOR THE BRITISH DELEGATION
AND BRITISH REPRESENTATIVE IN THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE,
HE WAS ADMIRER BY HIS COLLEAGUES FOR HIS FORCEFULNESS,
FRANKNESS, AND KEEN INTEREST IN ALLIANCE AFFAIRS. HE
BROUGHT ENTHUSIASM, SPARKLE, AND ZEST TO HIS WORK AND
KNEW HOW TO LAY OUT HIS ADVERSARIES, WHEN HE WANTED,
WITH ONE OF THE SHARPEST TONGUES IN THE BUILDING. HE
SOUGHT AND ENJOYED CLOSE WORKING RELATIONS WITH US
OFFICIALS, AND WAS OPEN IN DISCUSSING LONDON'S PLANS AND
PROBLEMS AND IN SHARING USEFUL INFORMATION ABOUT WHAT
OTHERS WERE UP TO AT NATO. HE WAS PARTICULARLY SAVVY
ON POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS, AND LESS ABREAST OF MILITARY
ISSUES.

2. MARGETSON IN SOME WAYS IS VERY, VERY ENGLISH, BUT HIS
PLEASANT FORMALITY OF MANNER IS ENLIVENED FRIENDLINESS
AND AN UNCONVENTIONAL TURN OF MIND. HE HAS NO KNOWN
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FAULTS -- UNLESS ONE ASSIGNS TO THAT CATEGORY TOTAL
ABSTINENCE FROM TOBACCO AND ALCOHOL. HIS NEW ASSIGNMENT,
WE GATHER, MARKS THE ESTEEM OF HIS AUTHORITIES FOR HIS
WORK AT NATO. HE SHOULD BE AN IDEAL CONTACT, WHEN AVAILA-
BLEBLE, FOR US OFFICIALS INTERESTED IN DEVELOPMENTS IN
VIETNAM. HE IS GOING THERE FOR A SECOND TOUR, THIS TIME
TO HANOI RATHER THAN HO CHI MINH CITY. GLITMAN.

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Message Attributes

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